

of the Treasury or Executive contingent fund, either to the said clerk or messenger, during the time aforesaid, beyond their regular salaries, and the law or authority under which such sum (if any) were allowed," was laid before me on the day of its date, after you had adjourned, by the clerk of the council.

At the session of the council in June last, Mr. Culbreth, the clerk, being confined to his house by indisposition, put into my hands an account against the State for recording commissions of civil officers, amounting to \$4,625 25, and referred me to the act of 1805, chapter 65, section 50, under which he claims payment thereof. The section of the act is in the following words:—And be it enacted, that all commissions which issue to civil officers shall be recorded by the clerk of the council, in a book to be furnished and kept by him for that purpose, and he shall be allowed the same fees for his trouble that have heretofore been allowed to the clerk of the general court, to be paid at such times as the Governor and Council may think proper, by orders drawn on the Treasury of the Western Shore. He also placed in my hands with his account, several accounts of the late Ninian Pinkney, his predecessor in office for similar services, which had been allowed and paid to Mr. P., and he requested me to submit his account to the consideration of the council, which I did. Upon a hasty examination of the law under which Mr. Culbreth claimed the payment of his account, and the several laws fixing the *regular* salary of the clerk of the council, as well while Mr. Pinkney was clerk, as since, Mr. Culbreth has held that office, there appeared but little, if any doubt, of Mr. Culbreth's account being a legal claim, which the act of 1805 made it the duty of the Governor and Council to pay. But as he had foreborne to claim payment for services rendered under the act of 1805, during the time of former Executive officers under whom he acted as clerk of the council, the council deemed it proper to have the official opinion of the Attorney General, their legal adviser, before finally acting on his claim, which Mr. Culbreth was directed to request. We herewith lay before you copies of the letter of Mr. Culbreth and of the opinion of the Attorney General in reply thereto, and also one of the accounts of Mr. Pinkney which was submitted to us. At the next meeting of the council Mr. Culbreth's account with the Attorney General's opinion was laid before the council, when the account was allowed, and an order on the treasury for its amount passed in his favour.

At the meeting in October last, Mr. Thompson, the messenger laid before the Council an account for taking care of the State House and other public property, from the year 1824 to the year 1830, inclusive, being 7 years, at £25 per annum, amounting to \$466 66 2-3, and referred us to resolution passed at November session, 1785, under which he claimed payment thereof. That resolution is in the following words:—Whereas it is necessary that a fit and proper person should be appointed to take charge of and